

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03896 171324Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NEA-10 COME-00 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /107 W
-----057477 171326Z /46

O R 171245Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2984
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 3896

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, UR, NL
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS' REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF: STATE 178559

1. GON REACTION THUS FAR TO THE TRIALS AND SENTENCING HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS. WHEN THE TRIALS BEGAN, THE MFA SPOKESMAN SAID THEY WERE QUOTE HIGHLY REGRETTABLE UNQUOTE (SEE THE HAGUE 3764). THE ONLY PUBLIC STATEMENT SINCE THE SHCHARANSKY SENTENCING WAS THE RESPONSE OF PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT TO A QUESTION AT THE PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOWING THE CABINET MEETING JULY 14: HE DECLINED TO COMMENT, SAYING THAT THE NETHERLANDS REPRESENT ISRAELI INTERESTS IN MOSCOW AND A STATEMENT MIGHT BE AGAINST THE BEST INTERESTS OF ISRAEL. HE ALSO SAID HE HOPED THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WOULD ISSUE A COMMON STATEMENT OF DISAPPROVAL.

2. SPEAKING THIS WEEKEND AT A RALLY IN AMSTERDAM TO PROTEST THE TRIALS, OPPOSITION LEADER DEN UYL SAID THE 1980 MOSCOW OLYMPIC GAMES WOULD "BECOME THE GAMES OF FROZEN RELATIONS" IF DISSIDENTS' UNCLASSIFIED

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TRIALS CONTINUED. HE SAW THE TRIALS AS RESULTING FROM EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A FREE TRADE UNION IN THE SOVIET UNION AND SAID THE TRIALS SHOW HOW MUCH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES FEAR SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. "I NOT ONLY PROTEST AS A DEMOCRAT, BUT AS A SOCIALIST...THESE TRIALS MOCK THE BASIS OF SOCIALISM."
BROWN

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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